

**In the Claims**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cabling technique for forming a mat of erosion control blocks, comprising the steps of:

arranging a plurality of erosion control blocks in a rectangular-shaped mat having a first set of opposing sides and a second set of opposing sides;

5 using blocks having at least two cable channels formed laterally through a heavy material forming said blocks, the cable channels of each said block having an axial axis angled with respect to the sides of said mat;

10 threading a at least one cable through a cable channel of a plurality of said blocks such that one end of said cable terminates at a block located at one side of said mat, and such that another end of said cable terminates at a block located at ~~an opposing~~ a different side of said mat, said cable threaded in a zig-zag path through cable channels of the blocks; and

~~continuing said threading step with a plurality of other cables~~ through respective cable channels of blocks ~~until a cable has been threaded through each cable channel of each block of the mat.~~

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, further including carrying out said threading step so that the ~~same cable does not pass through both cable channels of any block in the mat~~ at least one cable exits a cable channel of one block, and is routed in a different direction through a cable channel of an adjacent block.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, further including using blocks having a respective central opening formed therethrough from a top surface to a bottom surface of each said block.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, further including connecting together an end of a cable with another cable in a respective opening of a block ~~openings of the blocks located on one side of the mat~~ in such a manner that two cables are threaded through at least a portion of a cable channel of the block.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, further including connecting together an end of a cable with another cable in respective openings of blocks located on a side of the mat opposite said one side.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 4, further including connecting the cable to another cable end using a sleeve crimped thereto.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein said mat has corner blocks, and a cable channel opens at each corner of each said corner block, and further including threading a cable through a cable channel of each corner block to the outside of the respective corner block, forming a loop in said cable, and threading the cable back through the same cable channel so that an end of the cable is in  
5 the central opening of said corner block.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, further including fastening the cable end to the cable in the central opening, and using a sleeve crimped thereto.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A cabling technique for forming a mat of erosion control blocks, comprising the steps of:

(a) arranging a plurality of erosion control blocks in a rectangular-shaped mat having first and second opposing side edges and third and fourth opposing side edges;

5 (b) threading a first cable through cable channels of a plurality of blocks of the mat so that the first cable zig zags diagonally through the mat, and terminating free ends of the first cable at respective ~~locks~~ blocks located at the first and second opposing side edges of the mat;

10 (c) threading a plurality of other cables in the same manner as set forth in step (b), whereby a plurality of cable ends terminate at blocks located at said first and second opposing side edges of the mat; and

terminating the ends of the cables by attaching the cable ends to other cables.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, further including using erosion control blocks having a central opening formed from a top surface to a bottom surface thereof, and where first and second cable channels extend laterally through said block, into the central opening.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein the cable ends of a pair of cables are attached together in the central opening of one said block.

5 Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 10, further including threading a first cable through a cable channel of one block and terminating the first cable in a central opening of a second block, and threading a second cable through a cable channel of the second block and terminating the second cable in the central opening of the first block, and attaching the first and second cables together in the openings of both said first and second blocks.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 9, further including threading a cable from one block located on said third side edge to an adjacent block located on said third side edge, whereby a cable loop is formed between said adjacent blocks.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, further including a plurality of said cable loops, each said cable loop located between adjacent blocks located on said third side edge, and further including using said loops to fasten said mat of erosion control blocks to another mat of erosion control blocks.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein blocks located at said third side edge of the mat have cables extending through cable channels thereof, and said cables are criss-crossed in the central openings.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein each said cable channel of said blocks includes a first part extending from a corner of the block to the central opening, and a second part extending from the opening to an opposite corner of the block, an axial axis of the first and second parts of each said cable channel being collinear.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, further including threading an end of a short cable through the first part of a cable channel of a block located at said third side edge of the mat, looping the end of the short cable around one of the criss-crossed cables in the opening of the block, and fastening the end of the short cable to itself in the central opening of the block, thereby anchoring the short cable  
5 around said one cable of the criss-crossed cables.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 9, further including using as many cables as there are cable channels extending outwardly from blocks located at said first side edge of the mat.

Claim 19 (original): A cabling technique for forming a mat of erosion control blocks, comprising the steps of:

arranging and interlocking a plurality of erosion control blocks in rows and columns to form a rectangular-shaped mat having a first set of opposing sides and a second set of opposing sides, an axis of each block extending through a male tab member, and said axis being orthogonal to a side edge of the mat;

using interlocking blocks of the type having at least two male tab members and two female socket members, said members structured such that when a male tab member of one block is interlocked with a female socket member of another block, the blocks cannot be laterally removed from each other;

using interlocking blocks of the type having a central opening formed from a top surface of the block to a bottom surface thereof, and having cable channels extending laterally through each said block, where the cable channels of blocks located along a diagonal line through the mat are aligned, and the cable channels of each block intersect in the respective openings thereof; and

threading one or more cables through the respective cable channels of the blocks such that the cables are routed along diagonal paths through the mat.

Claim 20 (original): A mat of erosion control blocks cabled together as set forth in claim 19.

Claim 21 (new): The cabling technique of claim 19, further including using  $2N$  different cables in forming the mat, where  $N$  is the number of blocks in a single row of the mat, and routing at least some of the cables in a zig-zag path through the cable channels of the blocks of the mat.

Claim 22 (new): The cabling technique of Claim 21 further including routing the cables through the cable channels of the blocks of the mat so that the ends of each cable terminate at opposite sides of the first set of opposing sides of the mat, wherein each cable has a first end and a second end, and the first ends of the cables all terminate on one side of the first set of opposing sides of the mat and the second ends of the cables all terminate on the opposite side of the first set of opposing sides of the mat.